



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
415 Washington Avenue
Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814-9599

IN REPLY REFER TO:

F5419 (APIS)

May 7, 2007

Memorandum

To: User Fees Mailing List and Other Interested People

From: Superintendent, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Subject: Implementation of Recreation User Fees

After two years of discussion, public involvement, and review, the park's recreation user fees will be fully implemented later this month. Those who have been following this issue should find no surprises, as the fees will be exactly the same as the proposal we shared widely in 2006 and submitted to our Washington office for approval. The full schedule can be found on the park's web site: http://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/upload/fee_schedule.PDF. Additional background information on the fee program, and how the revenue will be used, is at <http://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/recreation-user-fees.htm>.

As a reminder, the overnight docking fee will be \$10 for boats under 40 feet (including any dinghies or davits, if they use dock "footage") and \$20 for longer boats. Docking fees will be in effect from 6 PM to 6 AM. The dock fees are parallel to the fees for overnight camping, which are also \$10 and \$20, depending on group size. There is no fee to use any dock before 6 PM, or to boat or picnic or hike in the park. Details on parking fees at Meyers Beach (including annual passes) and interpretive tour fees at Raspberry Island can be found at the web site. The historic Raspberry Island Light Station reopens this year on June 18 and we hope you'll enjoy touring the restored site – it's fantastic!

The Golden Age / Golden Access Passports, or Interagency Senior / Access Passes are available for those who qualify at park headquarters in Bayfield. They provide a 50% reduction on all park user fees except those which are already discounted at the time of purchase.

In addition, discount ticket books for frequent overnight use of the docks will be available at park headquarters, as well as Port Superior and Pikes Bay Marinas. (We welcome other partners interested in making dock tickets available to their patrons; please contact Beth Lowthian for more information at 715-779-3397 x103 to make arrangements.)

We are in the process of installing signage and instructions at all the fee locations in the park, with an expected implementation date on or about May 24. Self-registration at each public dock is appreciated

and essential to keep costs down. While enforcement will be low key, once the signs are in place, the payment of fees will be required.

As we've said in the past, the benefit to visitors of the NPS collecting user fees is that it makes more funding available for important projects to serve the public. 100% of the fee revenue collected here will stay here. But what you may not know is that an advance on our fee revenue is already helping improve the park.

With this year's near-record low water levels, many park docks will either be very shallow or be very high above the water, or both. In fact, some docks may not be safe for some vessels. Boaters need to be acutely aware of lake and dock conditions at all times, and should be especially careful unloading and loading. Please package your loads small enough to be handled easily and be careful not to get splinters from the docks. Pay attention when setting your lines while docking and make sure not to get your fingers between the cleats and the lines.

The fee monies (and a donation from the Friends of the Apostle Islands) are allowing us to take some emergency actions to alleviate the worst of the safety hazards caused by the low lake levels:

Dock Location	Action	Funding Source
Rocky Island	Install vertical rub rails approximately every 6' along the side of the dock, so boats can not slide underneath the dock	Friends of the Apostle Islands grant
Michigan Island	Install vertical rub rails	User Fee Revenue
Stockton – Quarry Bay	Install vertical rub rails	User Fee Revenue
Little Sand Bay	Dredge	User Fee Revenue
Stockton – Presque Isle	Dredge & reposition existing vertical rub rails	Unknown

Even though I don't have an identified funding source as yet, I've decided that we need to dredge at Presque Isle. The Friends have generously stepped forward and are accepting donations to help defray our expenses for that project. They (and I) welcome your support. Members of the Friends are also encouraged to display their 2007 Voluntary Passports on the rear of their boats to show that they care deeply about the park. More information on the Friends can be found at the park's fee website above, or at <http://www.friendsoftheapostleislands.org>.

Many of you participated in the dialogue which led to this point, some vigorously! While we might all prefer that there were no need for a fee program, the constructive responses we received made our program better. Based on the feedback we heard last year, I believe the final choices we made are ones that are understood and generally accepted by park visitors and the community. We promise to make the fee program implementation as smooth as we can, and to be fully accountable for the funds. Thank you for your patience, your love for the Apostle Islands, and your cooperation.

/s/ Bob Krumenaker